

Senate Probe Of CIA Backed By Fulbright

Subsidies Of Private International Activities
Alarm Foreign Relations Committee Head

By PHILIP POTTER
[Washington Bureau of The Sun]

Washington, Feb. 19—Senator Fulbright (D., Ark.), chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, today supported the idea of a special Senate investigation of Central Intelligence Agency financing of cold war warriors in labor, journalist and student ranks.

The Senator, often at odds with the Administration on foreign policy, was interviewed today on ABC's "Issues and Answers" program. He said he was alarmed at the extent of CIA subsidies for the international activities of various private organizations on the basis of last week's disclosures.

Covert Nature Disturbs

Fulbright said people were disturbed that it was done covertly rather than openly.

Linking CIA support for such groups as the National Student Association with what he called the "covert subsidizing" of books by the United States Information Agency, Fulbright said:

"If it is going to be, it ought to be open and above board. That this is a USIA book or this is a CIA activity I don't think would disturb people, and in any case, would be able to make up our minds for or against that kind of activity."

Fulbright said he found it

"most unusual," according to articles in the press, that President Johnson was unaware of reports that CIA grants were funneled through various foundations to the N.S.A. and such other organizations as the American Newspaper Guild for use in their jousts with Communist counterparts.

"As I read the press reports about the only man—the liaison man—in the White House is Mr. (Walt W.) Rostow, who used to work for the CIA, I believe, in the old days . . . This seems a little unusual," Fulbright said.

"A Little Odd"

The Senator said he also thought it "a little odd" Richard Helms, director of the CIA, had been named by President Johnson to work with Nicholas Katzenbach, Under Secretary of State, and John W. Gardner, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare in an investigation aimed at finding and stopping any Federal operations which may be eroding "the integrity and independence of the education community."

"It is like asking Mr. Joe Fowler (Henry Hamill Fowler, Secretary of the Treasury) to investigate the Treasury," Fulbright said. "That doesn't seem

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Fulbright Backs Senate Inquiry Into CIA Funds

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to be quite an adequate response to this."

Fulbright said his own view was that the CIA should be restricted to the "gathering of information" and taken out of the operational activity which he said it got into "under the Eisenhower Administration when you had as the head of the CIA the brother of the head of the State Department. I think certain relations grew up here that are a little abnormal."

The reference was to Allen W. Dulles, who was CIA director until 1961, and the late John Foster Dulles, who headed the State Department when Mr. Eisenhower was president.

It was one thing to have provided covert support for various groups "during the height of the cold war when Stalin was still there," Fulbright said. "But to continue long after that period into this quite different period . . . is still another thing."

More Formal Supervision

Thus, he said, he believed the Senate should institute more formal supervision of such activities than it has hitherto.

Meanwhile, various agencies, such as the United States Information Agency and the Agency for International Development are busily engaged in assessing any damages they may have incurred abroad as a result of the disclosures that the CIA tentacles reached out into educational and other fields.

In India, for instance, it is feared that the radical left has been given a new handle which to attack such USIA projects as the University Center in Calcutta, opened in 1955 in the heart of the university area and visited the first year by 50,000 students and faculty.

Setbacks in India

There is some fear that the CIA disclosure will further set back establishment of an Indian-American foundation to promote educational progress in India, financed with \$300,000,000 worth of Indian currency held by the United States resulting from sales of surplus agricultural products.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi welcomed the proposal when President Johnson disclosed it during her White House visit last March.

But she told a National Press Club audience care should be exercised that the foundation be formed and administered so as to obviate fears of those in a newly free country highly sensitive to the threat of foreign influence creeping in.

Those agitating against the foundation in India has raised the CIA bugaboo already. Last week's developments will give them more ammunition, it is feared by AID and Indian Embassy officials here.

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